

have noted the fact that Weddell had already described *B. cylindrica*, var. *Drummondiana* (*B. Drummondiana*) with the same peculiarities of foliage as those which characterize var. *scabra* Porter. A specimen of Drummond's no. 267 (the type number of Weddell's species or variety) is in the Gray Herbarium and it is identical with the plant of broad distribution on the coastal plain from Nantucket to northern Mexico which is generally passing as var. *scabra*. Although easily separated from typical *B. cylindrica*, the variety often simulates it in having the leaves thinner and on longer petioles than in the extreme of the variety, and in bogs and open situations the smooth-leaved plant often has thick short-petioled leaves which simulate those of the variety. It is thus apparent that it is wise to accept Weddell's mature judgment and that of Dr. Porter, in regarding the plant as a variety of *B. cylindrica* rather than a distinct species. In fact, Mr. E. P. Bicknell, who has often urged that the occurrence of transitional forms should not invalidate the title to specific rank of plants which in their extremes are easily recognizable, is inclined to follow the conclusion of Weddell and of Porter, for, in his critical notes on *The Ferns and Flowering Plants of Nantucket*, although listing the plant as *B. scabra* (Porter) Small, he adds the note: "Typical examples appear very distinct from *Boehmeria cylindrica* but the two plants seem to run together and may prove to be only extreme conditions of one species."<sup>1</sup>

By those who still incline to treat the plant as a species it should be known, then, not as *Boehmeria scabra* (Porter) Small but as *B. Drummondiana* Weddell; while by those who feel that the facts of Nature are more precisely stated by treating as varieties plants which are known freely to intergrade it will be called *B. cylindrica* (L.) Sw., var. *Drummondiana* Weddell.

#### GRAY HERBARIUM.

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MENYANTHES TRIFOLIATA IN WEST VIRGINIA.—While I was on a collecting trip, to what was once a spruce and hemlock swamp at Cranesville, W. Va., in 1904, my attention was called to a plant growing there that no one seemed to know and which was reputed to have certain medicinal properties. I did not recognize the plant from the description given by the gentleman who inquired about it. I was so

<sup>1</sup> Bicknell, Bull. Torr. Bot. Cl. xxxvi. 29 (1909).

interested in finding out what the plant might be, that I went to the place where it grew, and collected a number of specimens, one of which I have sent to the Gray Herbarium. I did not know the plant, but found out later that it was *Menyanthes trifoliata* L. The past summer, while on a collecting trip to the Cranberry Glades, Pocahontas County, W. Va., Mr. A. B. Brooks, one of the party, brought me some specimens of the same plant which he had collected in one of the glades. In so far as I have been able to ascertain, these two localities are far south of the previously reported range for *Menyanthes trifoliata*. However, the altitude and the glades correspond to the northern habitat to some extent.—JOHN L. SHELDON, West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.

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ZANNICHELLIA PALUSTRIS, AN ADDITIONAL RECORD.—I have to record an interesting addition to our list of the *Najadaceae*, published in RHODORA, xi. 205–208. 1909. Professor Wm. G. Farlow has presented me with a specimen of fruiting *Zannichellia palustris* L. which he collected in the northwestern corner of Brighton “in a brackish marsh” on the border of Charles River in August, 1877. Professor Farlow writes, under date of December 6, 1909, “I collected *Zannichellia* growing with *Ruppia* on the Charles River between Brighton and Newton. After leaving Faneuil the railroad now crosses a marsh by an embankment which passes opposite the old Stickney place in Watertown. In the ditches near the river towards the Faneuil end of the marsh was *Zannichellia* and farther back from the river was *Zizania*. Probably the plants have now disappeared.” The locality is nearly opposite the Watertown Arsenal.

These details are of special interest in view of the rapid changes that are in progress in the region about Boston. The construction of the large dam near the mouth of the river has converted the area under consideration into a fresh water way, maintained at a constant level, and the plants that haunt salt or brackish situations, such as have always heretofore existed along the banks of the Charles River as far up as the dam in Watertown, are rapidly disappearing, if indeed they exist at all.

*Zannichellia palustris* is an uncommon plant in New England, inhabiting sparingly the brackish marshes along the coast, and but rarely occurring inland.—WALTER DEANE, for the Local Flora Committee.